



Board Member Orientation

Welcome and thank you for volunteering to serve on the Building Bridges committee. To help you become acquainted with our program we have assembled this handbook for your use. It would be beneficial to read through the various sections to better understand how we evolved, our current program and our aspirations for the future. Please bring this book with you to each meeting, as we will be referring to its contents on a regular basis.

Building Bridges was begun in 1991 as an effort to establish a dialog between local business people and educators. The primary goal of this collaborative effort is to promote education, which meets the needs of all students and prepares today's students for work force.

The annual eleven-week program provides educators an opportunity to visit ten different businesses in the local area and learn how the world of work has changed and the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace today. At each three-hour site visit the business representatives provide a formal presentation, a tour of the facilities, and a question and answer period. The entire program is wrapped up in the eleventh session with an evaluation period. This session provides the participants the opportunity to speak to one another and process what they have learned and discuss ways in which they can bring these learning's back to the classroom. Educators may elect to take this course for re-certification credit.

Building Bridges is an important program for the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce. Through the sponsorship of the program, the Chamber provides its members the opportunity to directly link

with local educators and influence the course of education in our community.

The members of the Building Bridges Committee play a vital role in the success of the program. Through their volunteer efforts the program is constantly reviewed for improvements and opportunities to grow. Additionally, the committee seeks to find ways to disseminate the program to others and help educators with curriculum improvements.

As a committee member you will have the opportunity to facilitate a number of the business site visits. This liaison role is important to our program, as you will be the ambassador for Building Bridges. In your role as the facilitator you will introduce the business representatives, and conduct the evaluation session at the end of each visit. A Facilitator's Guide will be provided for you prior to your leading a site visit. Additionally, we encourage new board members to sit in on a number of the site visits to better understand the program, the business perspective and the concerns of the participants.

The committee meets every third Thursday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon in the conference room at the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce. It is understood that from time to time your work schedule may not permit you to attend a meeting. If you are unavailable to attend a meeting, please notify the Building Bridges Chamber representative at 947-0307.